

REMARKS

Claims 2, 3, 14 through 16 and 25 through 28 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 4 through 13, and 17 through 24 remain pending in the present application. Claims 1, 5 through 7, 13 and 21 have been amended. Basis for the amendments can be found throughout the specification, claims and drawings as originally filed.

The undersigned attorney would like to thank Examiner Kramer for the courtesies extended to him during the personal interview on March 2, 2005. During the interview, above Claim 1 was presented. The Examiner indicated that Claim 1 would overcome the Examiner's §102 rejection in the February 8, 2005 Office Action.

The Examiner objects to Claims 1 through 9, 11 and 12 for minor informalities. The informalities have been corrected. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw his objections.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112 (second paragraph)

The Examiner had rejected Claims 26 through 28 under 35 U.S.C. §112 (second paragraph). These claims have been cancelled and this rejection is considered moot.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner has rejected several of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and 102(b) in view of various references. As was discussed at the interview, above Claim 1 has been amended to overcome these rejections. Accordingly, Applicants believe Claim 1, as well as dependent Claims 4 through 12, to be patentably distinct over the art cited by the Examiner.

Claim 13 has been amended to be patterned after Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants believe Claim 13 to be patentably distinct over the art cited by the Examiner. Likewise, Claims 17 through 24, which depend from Claim 13, are believed to be patentably distinguishable over the art cited by the Examiner.

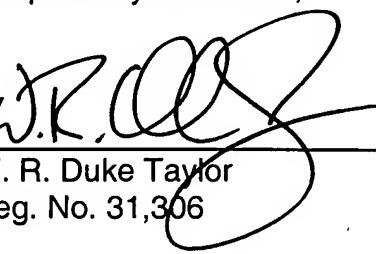
Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner has rejected several of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) in view of various references. These dependent claims depend from independent claims which have been amended to overcome the Examiner's rejections. Accordingly, Applicants believe the dependent claims to likewise overcome the Examiner's rejection.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to pass the case to issue at his earliest possible convenience. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the present application, he should not hesitate to contact the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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